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School Committee Minutes 06/24/2008

Approved by School Committee July 24, 2008

**THE ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 2008
7:30 PM**

Present:

School Committee Members: Chair, Denise Burns, Vice Chair, Joe Curran, Joe Curro, Leba Heigham, Secretary Ronald Spangler, and Jeff Thielman.
Superintendent, Nate Levenson, Chief Financial Officer, Sue Mazzarella, Interim Sp. Ed. Director, Gerald Kupperschmidt

Absent:

School Committee member Sue Sheffler, Assistant Superintendent: Kathleen Bodie

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Lauren Hefferon expressed her concern with the open enrollment policy. Ms. Hefferon would like clarity of the policy and commented that each principal should hold a meeting for parents explaining the procedures.

CONSENT AGENDA – all items listed with an asterisk (*) are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the Committee so requests, in which event the item will be considered in its normal sequence.

*Approval of minutes from School Committee Meeting June 10, 2008.

*Approval of Warrant # 08169 dated June 10, 2008 in the amount of \$ 1,058,962.90.

*Approval of School Committee Summer Meeting on July 24, 2008 @ 7:30 pm.

*Approval of Information Management Specialist Job Description

On a motion by Mr. Thielman and seconded by Mr. Spangler it was motioned to approve the Consent agenda presented. Ms. Burns amended the motion to pull out the minutes of June 10, 2008.
Vote 6:0

On a motion by Mr. Curro and seconded by Mr. Spangler it was voted and approved to accept the minutes of the June 10, 2008 meeting.
Vote 4 – 0 – 2, with Ms. Burns and Mr. Curran abstaining due to being absent from the meeting.

RECOGNITION

Ms. Burns announced the Ottoson Middle School Physical Education award recipients presented by Mr. Bartholomew and other PE teachers, Shari Ghittleman, Nina Martorana, and Kevin Cummings to: Theresa Demore, Ryan Salocks, Simone Black, William Sullivan, Megan Olsen, Briann Nichols, William Cates, Kate Poor, Colleen Kane, Declan Newman, Clara Friedman, Diwesh Poudyal, Megan Hourican, Aaron Breen, Grace Hueber, Caroline Leahy, Carissa Martorana and Ryan Wilke.

TITLE IX AND ATHLETIC FACILITIES UPDATE

Ted Dever, AHS Athletic Director presented to the committee the Arlington Facility report that is required by policy JBA. The report included the outstanding upkeep of the hockey rink, tennis courts at Crosby, the Toz Gym and the weight room. He identified the primary problems with the upper fields poor condition at the high school, the hard dirt should be replaced on baseball and softball fields and offered that Boys and Girls Club pools is a five-lane pool and a

larger pool with six-eight lane pool would be more efficient and inline with our new league competition. The report recommended that the Peirce Turf Field needs to be dragged, drains cleaned and the logo on the turf that was damaged should be repaired and paid for by the individuals who lit the fire. Also recommended would be to paint the Pit Maroon and Gray to make the wrestling teams area more attractive.

Mr. Dever reported on the Booster Clubs as required by policy JJ. The known Booster clubs include Friends of Arlington Baseball, Friends of Arlington Football, and Friends of Arlington Hockey. All three "Booster Clubs" are recognized as non-profits groups with Board of Directors, articles, and tax-exempt numbers. Monies raised by these groups offset some of the athletic costs to the high school.

Mr. Dever reported on the Compliance with the Title IX of the Educational Amendments in 1972 that stated that "No person...shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject of discriminations under any educational program or activity receiving federal assistance." The school must comply with three requirements to ensure equity in their athletics programs: 1. Provide equal opportunities to participate in sports for female and male students. 2. Must treat female and male students fairly in all aspects of the athletic programs. 3. Must allocate scholarships dollars equitably to athletes.

Mr. Dever presented that the turf and ice time for our boys' and girls' athletic programs have been equally addressed. Mr. Dever addressed the concerns, both teams have been pleased with the amount of time with the ice and turf schedules, and this should persist to be fair and equitable. Mr. Dever will continue to meet with coaches and have them report back any matter and noted no criticism about equity have been received and coaches are pleased.

Committee members Mr. Spangler, Mr. Curro and Mr. Thielman and Superintendent Levenson were in agreement that Mr. Dever was doing what he should be doing and noted Mr. Dever has gone above and beyond and that we should be in compliance with Title IX.

BUDGET PLANNING FOR FY 10

Superintendent Levenson reported on the FY 10 Budget Development and expressed concern over the difficulty to balance the budget. The plan has included various revenue expectations, teacher salary expectations, general expenses and the impact of special educations legal and moral obligations. Nate presented 11 options for dealing with the budget shortfall and asked the committee to give him direction on the options he had presented. The FY 10 Budget Development dated June 24, 2008 presented by Superintendent Levenson is posted on our website.

Mr. Spangler, chair of the Budget Subcommittee prepared and reviewed a timetable that was approved by the subcommittee and noted the timetable is policy of the Arlington Public Schools and established by the School Committee.

Mr. Spangler motioned to adopt the Proposed FY 10 Budget Timeline and Mr. Thielman seconded the motion. Ms. Heigham amending the motion to include five community forums to be added with survey of community priorities on November 10th. Mr. Thielman adding to have the forums take place between November 10 and December 31.

After the committee's discussion to include the five forums it was determined that it would be difficult to predict how many forums and which subcommittees would hold the forums, therefore, **Ms. Heighman withdrew her motion.**

Ms. Heighman motioned to add to the timeline on November 10th, and determine schedule for community forums to the survey of community priorities with Mr. Thielman seconding the motion
Vote 6-0.

Proposed FY10 Budget Timeline:

June—September	Budget Subcommittee and Administration research selected areas of revenue enhancement and cost reduction
June 24 th	Superintendent walks through the major components that will drive the FY10 budget deficit
September 15 th	The Superintendent provides the Arlington School Committee with an overview of the FY10 budget deficit
November 10 th	Survey of community priorities and determine schedule for community

	<i>forums*</i>
January 13 th	School Committee votes bottom line FY10 operating budget
January—February	Budget Subcommittee PTO roadshow
February 3 rd	Budget Subcommittee FY10 Budget Forum (Tentative)
February 10 th	Superintendent and School Committee review the Administration's draft FY10 budget proposal(s)
February 13 th —20 th	Online community survey on specific FY10 budget choices
February 24 th	Public hearing on proposed FY10 budget (at regular SC meeting) Budget Subcommittee presents survey results
March 10 th	School Committee adoption of FY10 budget
May	Budget presented to Town Meeting

*Voted and approved by School Committee June 24, 2008 to adopt this timeline with the amendment adding to November 10th and *determine schedule for community forums*

The committee members were comfortable with the timeline and expressed approval of having early discussions of the FY10 budget one year in advance. Superintendent suggested 11 options dealing with the budget shortfall; one included looking at the 6th year reserve for the current 5-year plan. The committee concluded that the summit meeting being held this Thursday would not be the place to further discuss Nate's options but recommended discussions with town manager and others.

On a motion by Mr. Thielman and seconded by Mr. Curran its was voted and approved to direct Superintendent Levenson to meet with Town Manager and appropriate authority to begin conversations on further discussions on the 6th year reserve for current 5-year plan.

Vote: 6-0 unanimous

BRAINSTORMING ON TOPICS FOR NEXT YEAR

Ms. Burns directed the committee to submit ideas for the 08-09 school year meetings.

Mr. Spangler suggested keeping the topics of the meetings to the goals for the 08-09 as we did the past year. He also suggested a joint meeting with the Selectmen's office here in the School Committee room and would like the committee to get involved with the Governors Readiness Project. Guest speakers were suggested and being considered.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent Levenson thanked Jerry Kupperschmidt for his service and wished him well. Nate reported on the success of the reading program and mentioned that we have reduced the number of children not reading at grade level in grades 1 and 2 by over half.

Vote to Add Staff for Group Homes/Arlington Students Special Education Program

Superintendent Levenson, in addition, reported that the Germaine Lawrence group home for girls in Arlington would be expanding next fall. The opportunity for Arlington Public Schools is that these students pay tuition, and any programming that supports Germaine Lawrence students would also support our students. Nate is recommending adding staff to support the additional students and program that would be cost neutral.

Mr. Thielman motioned to approve to add staff for Germaine Lawrence group home students for the special education program with Ms. Heigham seconded the motion.

Mr. Curran would like to amend the motion to consult with AEA to make sure AEA is on board. Mr. Spangler added to make sure its cost neutral.

Mr. Thielman withdrew his original motion.

Mr. Thielman motioned to add staff for Germaine Lawrence group home students in Arlington special education program as long as it is cost neutral, the appropriate consultations are done with the AEA, and Mr. Curran seconded the motion.

Vote 6:0

Vote Year End Line Item transfers

On a motion by Mr. Spangler and seconded by Ms. Heigham it was motioned to approve the two line transfer from Line 7, and Line 9.

Vote: 5-1 with Mr. Curran opposing

Ms. Burns recommended to Chief Financial Officer Sue Mazzarella to continue to update the committee if another line item falls below the estimated budget. Sue responded to the request by noting the end of the year is the appropriate time to give updates on year end line item transfers and emphasized the budget is a constant focus with her and Nate.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Budget

Mr. Spangler reported on the approved May 21, 2008 meeting and the June 17th draft minutes.

Community Relations

Mr. Thielman presented his Community Relations Subcommittee June 18, 2008 minutes and reported on the Parmenter/Crosby Schools discussion and how we need to continue these discussions. Mr. Spangler has been working the SFWG on this project and noted this is the one step to a process and would recommend community input.

On a motion by Mr. Spangler and seconded by *Mr. Thielman* it was MOVED:

The Arlington School Committee supports the Town Manager's recommendation that the Board of Selectmen create an Advisory Committee to determine the value of the Parmenter and Crosby buildings at their highest and best uses, as well as with certain as yet to be determined, limitations placed on their use.

The Committee further directs the Superintendent to determine whether the projected space needs of the school district could require use of part or all of either building, and to provide recommendations to the Committee as soon as possible, but not later than Sept. 30th, regarding the associated use limitations the Selectmen's Advisory Committee should consider in its valuation study.

Vote 6:0

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

Ms. Heigham reported on the June 10, 2008 subcommittee meeting and explained the Superintendent's Advisory Committee is reviewing professional development and the common assessments and review goals for FY 09 for CIA.

District Accountability

Mr. Curro reported that the subcommittee met tonight and will have a meeting on July 22 and September 4th.

Policy & Procedure

Mr. Curran reported on the June 3rd meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for June 30th at 8:00 pm and past minutes will be voted on at this meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Spangler and seconded by Mr. Thielman it was motioned to

MOVE: That the Policies and Procedures subcommittee review policy JCA: Assignment of Students to Schools, and propose any appropriate revisions to ensure faster action on the part of the school department, as well as better and more consistent communication with parents. The subcommittee is requested to report back on this matter on or before the first regular school committee meeting in September.

Ms. Burns would like to amend the motion to strike out ensure faster action and replace it with strive for faster action.

After further discussion Mr. Spangler amended to change *September to November* with Mr. Curran seconding the motion.

Vote 6:0

On a motion by Mr. Curro it was moved that the Policies and Procedures subcommittee consider the drafting of a new policy concerning exit interview procedures for employees leaving the Arlington Public Schools with Mr. Curran seconding the motion.

Vote 6:0

Mr. Curro will consult with MASC and get additional information on the procedures. Mr. Curro would like this policy to

view and receive a breakdown on why employees leave and Ms. Burns wants to make sure we are not violating any policies for having an interviewing process.

SECRETARY REPORT

Mr. Spangler reported on correspondence received, Office of Selectmen letter, M. L King, Jr. letter, Class of 2008 program, Stratton Scene, Literacy magazine.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Spangler motioned to move the Community Relations Subcommittee to look at the role of the School Committee liaison at each of the schools and what sort of reporting needs to be communicated back to School Committee.
Vote 6:0

ADJOURN

On a motion by Mr. Thielman and seconded by Mr. Curran it was
Voted and approved to adjourn at 10:45 p.m.

Submitted by
Karen M. Fitzgerald
Administrative Assistant
School Committee